

THE  
ADDRESS  
TO THE  
SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE  
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH


IN THE  
Diocese of Iowa,

DELIVERED IN  
CHRIST CHURCH, BURLINGTON,

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1855.

BY  
THE RT. REV. HENRY W. LEE, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE.

BURLINGTON:  
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.  
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## A D D R E S S .

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DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—

Having been called, in the Providence of God, to the spiritual charge of this Diocese, it becomes my duty to present to its Convention my first Annual Address.

My Consecration took place in St. Luke's Church, Rochester, Western New York, on St. Luke's Day, Wednesday, October 18, 1854, the Bishop of Vermont presiding, and the Bishops of Michigan, Western New York, Massachusetts, Maine, and Illinois, being present and assisting. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Massachusetts. The services were peculiarly solemn and impressive, and I pray that the holy union which they consummated may tend to the building up of the Redeemer's kingdom in this new and interesting portion of our extended country. Brethren, pray for him who is thus placed over you in the Lord, that he may know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified, and that in all things he may duly execute the office whereunto he is called, to the edifying of the Church, and to the honor, praise, and glory of God's holy name. Your Diocesan, unlike the venerable Missionary Bishop, with whose supervision you were formerly favored, comes to you without the wisdom and experience of age, though with a full determination to be faithful to his trust, and to devote his life to the great work upon which he has ventured to enter. At the very outset, I ask your sympathy and your kind indulgence, beseeching you to bear with every infirmity, to overlook every imperfection, and to unite your petitions with mine, that the work of the Lord may prosper



in our midst, to the promotion of His glory in the salvation of immortal souls.

On the day of my Consecration, I received notice from the Bishop of Illinois of the deposition of the Rev. John McKeown, from the Diocese of Montreal.

In the evening of the same day, a missionary meeting was held in St. Luke's Church, under the direction of the Secretary and General Agent of the Domestic Committee of our General Board of Missions, at which addresses were delivered by several of the Bishops, and other clergy, and a collection was made in aid of the Missionary work in this Diocese. One of the most effective addresses was that by the Rev. Mr. Ufford, of this Diocese, who was happily able to be present at the services of the Consecration.

Having consented to remain in charge of St. Luke's Church, Rochester, until the 1st of January, I continued to perform parochial duty in that parish accordingly; and at the time indicated I closed a happy connection of precisely seven years with a beloved and united people, for whose spiritual welfare I shall not cease to pray, and whose many tokens of affection and kindness I shall not cease to remember.

Having determined, meanwhile, to visit the Diocese at an early day, I left Rochester for that purpose during the week following that of my Consecration, and arrived at Dubuque on Saturday, October 28; and on Sunday, October 29, I preached, morning and evening, in St. John's Church, in that city. I am happy to state that this parish, under the Rectorship of the Rev. R. D. Brooke, has recently become self-supporting, and is in a prosperous condition. It has the distinction of being the first parish in this Diocese to make a voluntary relinquishment of Missionary aid. May the blessing of the Great Head of the Church attend the whole of its future course!

On Thursday, November 2, in the evening, I preached in Trinity Church, Muscatine, after prayers by the Rector, the Rev. John Ufford.

On Sunday, November 5, in the morning, I preached in Trinity Church, Davenport, and, assisted by the Rector, the Rev. Alfred Louderback, administered the Holy Communion. In the afternoon, I preached in the same Church, and confirmed *three* persons, it being the first occasion of my administration of that solemn rite.

On Tuesday, November 7, in the evening, I preached in Christ Church, Burlington, the service having been read by the Rev. Messrs. Batchelder and Adderly, in the absence of the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Haff, who was confined by sickness.

Peculiar circumstances rendering it impracticable for me to visit other portions of the Diocese, as I had fully purposed to do, I returned to Rochester from Burlington, and officiated there every Sunday, and on other occasions, until the close of the year.

November 11, I gave canonical consent to the Consecration of the Rev. Horatio Potter, D. D., as Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of New York; and also to the Consecration of the Rev. Thomas March Clark, D. D., as Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island.

On Wednesday, November 22, in Trinity Church, New York, I took part in the services at the Consecration of the Rev. Horatio Potter, D. D., as Provisional Bishop of New York. May God give him grace for the arduous duties to which he is called, and enable him to be faithful, even unto death!

On Thursday, November 23, in the morning, I preached in St. Philip's Church, Philadelphia, it being the day of the Annual Thanksgiving in the State of Pennsylvania.

On the 27th of November I received the Rev. George W. Watson, Deacon, into this Diocese, with letters dimissory from the Bishop of Western New York. Mr. Watson has been appointed Missionary at Bellevue, Jackson County.

On Wednesday, December 6, it was my privilege, in Grace Church, Providence, to take part in the services at the Consecration of the Rev. Thomas March Clark, D. D., as Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island. In the evening of the same day, I was one of



the speakers at a Missionary meeting held in the same Church, on which occasion, at the kind suggestion of the new Bishop, a collection was made towards a Missionary Fund for this Diocese.

On Tuesday, December 12, I received notice from the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, D. D., of the deposition of the Rev. E. A. Greenleaf, in conformity with the provisions of Canon V. of 1850.

On Sunday, December 24, in St. Luke's Church, Rochester, in compliance with the courteous request of the Bishop of Western New York, I administered the Rite of Confirmation to *thirty-five* persons, members of that Parish.

On Friday, December 29, I assisted in the services at the Institution of the Rev. Maunsell Van Rensselaer as Rector of Grace Church, Rochester; the Bishop of Western New York acting as Institutor, and the Provisional Bishop of New York preaching the sermon.

On Sunday, December 31, in the afternoon, I took leave of my late Parish in a farewell sermon. The Bishop of Western New York was present.

The great importance of a Diocesan Fund was frequently urged upon my consideration, during my first visit to Iowa, and the desire was expressed by both Clergymen and Laymen that I would undertake the work of presenting the subject to our brethren in the older Dioceses. Accordingly, I entered upon the arduous task on the first Sunday in January, and was thus occupied, with only one or two exceptions, on every Sunday until Easter. During this period I visited Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, and St. Louis, as well as several less important places, and was everywhere received with the most gratifying and cheering expressions of sympathy and kindness. Not deeming it expedient, at present, to specify the various congregations that have contributed to our wants, I would simply state, in general terms, that thus far the sum of three thousand dollars has been secured, and that it is my intention, if an expression to that effect should be made by the present Convention, to resume the work of application

upon our adjournment, visiting, in such case, the city of New York and its vicinity, and making a somewhat extended tour through several of the Dioceses of New England.

I would respectfully commend this whole subject to your consideration, and I suggest the adoption of a Canon providing for the appointment of a Board of Trustees, who shall have charge of all funds that may be contributed, at any time, for Diocesan purposes ; such funds to be invested according to their best judgment, and the income to be devoted in such way as the donors may intimate, or the Convention decide.

It is evident to my own mind that our first and chief work is to make provision for the establishment of the Church itself on a broad and deep and permanent foundation, deferring, till we arrive at some degree of maturity, as a Diocese, any attempts, except incipient ones, to provide for ourselves, in our Diocesan capacity, those literary and theological Institutions which are ready for our patronage in some of the older and not very remote Dioceses, but which would prove too burdensome to us in our infant years. I have, therefore, in the voluntary work in which I have been engaged during the past few months, so presented our wants and claims as to give the impression that in asking for aid we have simply in view the means of the support and extension of the Church in this Diocese. Accordingly, most of the donations received have been designated for an Episcopal Fund, while others have been given for general Missionary purposes. Whether the funds for these different objects should be in charge of one and the same Board, is a point submitted to the consideration of the Convention. In most of our Dioceses there are Missionary Boards or Committees to which everything appertaining to Diocesan Missions is entrusted ; and you may deem it expedient, in carrying out your action at the last Convention, to make a similar provision, even thus early in your existence as a complete Diocese. The work of Diocesan Missions is indeed one to which we cannot give too earnest or too prompt attention ; and it will doubtless be suggested to your own minds that, either by Canon or by resolution,



some permanent arrangement should be made for regular and general parochial collections for this important object.

I would urge the importance of general contributions also for General Missions. Nearly all the parishes in this Diocese are aided by the Domestic Committee, or the Philadelphia "Association for the West," and in other respects we are their debtors; so that mere considerations of gratitude should incite us to do what we can to increase their means of doing good. The smallest offerings will be acceptable, especially as indicative of a disposition to benefit others in the same way in which we are benefited ourselves. Let every parish, however feeble, do something for General Missions, both at home and abroad, in the remembrance that "he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

In close connection with this subject is that of church building. The provision of a suitable place of worship is a thing of indispensable necessity to the true prosperity of a parish, and the work of making such provision is one that should be entered upon as early as possible by every parochial organization. But in so doing, great care should be taken not to incur pecuniary responsibilities beyond the power of the parish to discharge, so that in the solemn service of consecration the people may devote that to God which is their own, and also be delivered from the great evil of a burdensome debt. As a general rule it is desirable that a parish should not exceed *its own* ability in furnishing itself with a place of worship; though in some instances this may be impracticable. It is to be hoped that at some future time a portion of the Diocesan Fund may be available for this work; so that new and feeble parishes may be aided in securing sites for churches and parsonages, and in the erection of fitting temples for the worship of Almighty God. But, in any case, I would express the hope that applications abroad for assistance in building churches will soon be rare exceptions, and not the general rule. Let the people in feeble parishes have no aspirations beyond humble and economical structures, and let their churches, like their own private dwellings, give place to those of a more costly character only



when warranted by an increase of means and by other favorable circumstances.

On Wednesday, February 14, I transferred the Rev. Samuel Goodale to the Diocese of Illinois. The vacancy in Grace Church, Cedar Rapids, occasioned by Mr. Goodale's removal, has been supplied by the election of the Rev. Samuel Starr, who has just been received into this Diocese with letters dimissory from the Bishop of New Jersey.

On Tuesday, February 20, I received into this Diocese, from that of New Jersey, the Rev. Edward W. Peet, who, having been appointed Missionary at Fort Des Moines, is now laboring in that promising and important field. The readiness which is manifested on the part of experienced and faithful ministers at the East to engage in the Master's work in this new and distant portion of the vineyard, is a highly encouraging circumstance, for which God's name be praised! At the present moment there are more laborers ready to enter this field, so white for the harvest, than there are means for their support. Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would open the hearts of His people to furnish those supplies without which the Missionary work must languish and cease. "How shall they preach, except they be sent?"

In this connection I would state that on Wednesday, February 28, I addressed the Students in the Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia, with reference to the spiritual wants of the West, and of this Diocese in particular, and was happy to find several of them desirous to "come over and help us" as soon as they shall have received ordination.

On Thursday, March 1, I issued a Circular Letter to the Clergy of the Diocese, calling their attention to the importance of a full attendance of the Clergy and of Lay Delegates at this Convention, it being the first one since the complete organization of the Diocese, and making some suggestions as to the desirableness of full Parochial and Missionary Reports, as well as requesting the Clergy to incorporate in their Reports any information that they might have in

regard to promising openings for our Church in the portions of the Diocese in which they are respectively laboring. In the same letter I gave notice of the order of my first general visitation of the Diocese.

On Thursday, March 15, I received notice from the Bishop of Kentucky of the deposition of the Rev. W. W. Dodge from the office of Presbyter, agreeably to the provisions of Canon V. of 1850.

After Easter Day, which I passed in the City of Cincinnati, until near the commencement of my recent visitation in this Diocese, I spent several Sundays in the Diocese of Tennessee, on a visit to family relatives ; and while there, I enjoyed the satisfaction of ministering, especially, to the spiritual wants of the colored population, in a rural district of that State ; and thus had a most favorable opportunity of testing the capability of our Prayer Book for strictly Missionary work. Whatever legislative action may take place, in our day, or in any future generation, with reference to a modification of our Liturgy, it seems to me that, with the service as it is, the Prayer Book is an invaluable Missionary Assistant, when used according to its own Rubrics, in connection with the Rubric of Necessity and of Common Sense. The interest now pervading the Church on this subject is doubtless, however, one of the cheering "signs of the times," and indicates the approach of a day when a Church with such a history and such claims as those which characterize our own, will exert greater influence upon the mass of mankind, and be more and more like its Divine Head, of whom it is testified that "the common people heard him gladly."

On Thursday, May 3, I arrived at the city of Keokuk, and began my first general visitation of the Diocese. On the two following evenings I preached in St. John's Church, after prayers by the Rector, the Rev. George Denison ; and on Sunday, the Fourth after Easter, in the morning, I preached, confirmed *two* persons, and, assisted by the Rector, administered the Holy Communion. I preached again in the afternoon, and addressed the children of the Sunday



School. The condition of this parish is so flourishing, that an effort is now in progress for the enlargement of the Church.

On Monday, May 7, at Fort Madison, the Rev. Mr. Adderly reading the evening service, I baptized two children and preached. I also preached in the morning of the next day. Here is a most favorable opening for our services, and it is my earnest hope that a church may be erected at an early day. A parochial organization is in existence, under the name of "Hope Church," and a spirit is manifest which can hardly fail to establish the parish on a permanent foundation. The field is one that ought to have the entire labors of a resident minister.

On Wednesday, May 9, in the evening, I preached in Christ Church, Burlington, after prayers by the Rev. Messrs. Adderly and Batchelder, and confirmed *two* persons; the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Haff, reading the Preface to the Confirmation Office. This Parish has recently procured an organ, and its general state is such as to warrant the expectation that it will soon become self-supporting. An enlargement of the Church will soon be called for by the increase of the city and of the congregation.

On Thursday, May 10, in the afternoon, in Trinity Church, Muscatine, I addressed the candidates for Confirmation; and in the same church, in the evening, after prayers by the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Ufford, I preached, and confirmed *twenty-six* persons, and again addressed them. This was the largest class ever confirmed in the Diocese, and the Rector has abundant reason to feel that his labors have not been in vain in the Lord. A larger church is very much needed by this growing congregation. The faithful preaching of Jesus Christ and him crucified is the surest means of crowding all our churches with interested and devout worshippers.

On Friday, May 11, in the afternoon, in Trinity Church, Davenport, after prayers by the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Louderback, I preached, and confirmed *three* persons, making *six* in all for the year. This congregation is now occupying one of the most beautiful and

appropriate churches in the whole West, and it is hoped that circumstances will soon warrant its consecration.

On the day last named, I received notice from the Bishop of Western New York of the deposition of the Rev. Benjamin W. Witcher, in accordance with Canon I. of 1853.

On the Fifth Sunday after Easter, May 13, in the morning, after prayers by the Missionary, the Rev. George W. Watson, Deacon, I preached, and confirmed *seven* persons in the Court House, at Bellevue, Jackson County. I also addressed the persons confirmed. In the afternoon, I preached in the same place, and catechised the children of the Sunday School. The members of this small parish have evinced most commendable zeal in securing a church lot, and in making other preparations to build a house of worship during the present season. The labors of the Missionary have been highly blessed, and our prospects there are peculiarly encouraging.

On Thursday, May 15, I received notice from the Provisional Bishop of New York of the deposition of the Rev. Homer Wheaton, in accordance with Canon V. of 1850.

On Wednesday, May 16, in the evening, in St. John's Church, Dubuque, I baptized an infant son of the Rector, preached, and confirmed *four* persons. The service was read by the Rector, assisted by the Rev. George W. Watson. This church is soon to be considerably improved, and the time cannot be distant when its enlargement will become a matter of necessity. The cities and towns of the West are increasing so rapidly, that it is highly important that our Church should make proportional provision for those who desire to worship at her altars.

While at Dubuque I received the painful intelligence of the death of a beloved brother, whose lingering illness of two years had in part prepared me for such a result. Thus in the brief space of fifteen months have I been called to part with three cherished brothers, companions of my childhood and friends of my later years, and been most solemnly and affectingly admonished to work while



the day lasts, and to give all diligence to prepare for the hour of death and the day of judgment. Let me have your prayers, dear brethren, that these sad bereavements may be sanctified to my spiritual and everlasting good.

Not finding it practicable to visit the town of Lansing as I had intended, the Rev. Mr. Watson has recently held a service there at my request. He reports a favorable state of things for our Church, and it will be my endeavor to secure Missionary services for that place as soon as possible, and to visit it myself at an early day.

On the Sunday after Ascension Day, May 20, in the morning, I preached in the Lecture Room of Grace Church, Cedar Rapids, after prayers by the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Starr, who on that day entered upon his duties in this interesting field. In the afternoon, I I preached again, and addressed the children of the Sunday School. I also preached in the same place on the following evening. This parish is engaged in the work of erecting a church, which promises to be one of the most beautiful and appropriate in the Diocese. It is expected that it will be ready for consecration in the course of a few months. The Sunday School is unusually prosperous, and the whole aspect of the parish is in a high degree cheering and promising. May the Lord abundantly bless the labors of His servant to whom the charge of this congregation is now committed!

On Tuesday, May 22, in the evening, I preached in Iowa City, to the congregation of Trinity Church, after prayers by the Rev. C. C. Townsend, the minister in charge. I also preached in the same place on the following evening, confirmed *five* persons, and addressed them. The prospects of this parish are brightening, and we may hope to see it firmly established within a brief period. It is in pressing need, however, of a church, and must labor under great disadvantages until this want is supplied. The opening for our Church in that flourishing community is peculiarly favorable, and let us pray that the present opportunity may be faithfully improved.

While in Iowa City, I visited the "Orphan Home," a private charity under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Townsend. The children

sustained an examination in the Catechism very creditably, and gave general evidence of having been well instructed in those "things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health."

On Friday, May 25, in the evening, I preached to the congregation of Trinity Church, Washington, after prayers by the Missionary in charge, the Rev. Mr. Adderly. I also baptized one infant on the same occasion. This parish has secured a site for a church, and hopes are entertained that the work of building may be commenced during the present season. Our people there are few in number, but they have a zeal that is highly commendable, and they richly deserve the sympathy and aid of their Christian brethren in the effort in which they are engaged.

On Whitsunday, May 27, I preached, morning and evening, in the town of Fairfield, the Rev. Mr. Adderly reading the service. The large Methodist Chapel was filled on both occasions, though but few seemed familiar with the Prayer Book. We have as yet no organized parish in this place, but a lot has been purchased for a church, and a parochial organization, at an early day, is in contemplation; and we may hope that the heart of the laborious Missionary, who devotes a portion of his time to this field, will be cheered by seeing his work prospering under the blessing of Him who giveth the increase.

On Tuesday in Whitsun-Week, May 29, in Christ Church, Burlington, after evening prayer by the Rev. Mr. Haff, and a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Peet, I confirmed *five* persons, and addressed them. These, with the two confirmed on a previous occasion, make *seven* as the whole number for the year. Since my visitation to this parish three weeks ago, important improvements have been made in the interior of the Church, evincing increasing interest and zeal on the part of the congregation.

In the presence of the Convention this morning, after prayers by the Rev. Messrs. Batchelder and Denison, I preached, and admitted to Priests' orders the Rev. George William Watson, Deacon. The candidate was presented by the Rev. R. D. Brooke, and the Rev.



Messrs. Adderly, Batchelder, Brooke, Dennison, Peet, and Ufford united in the laying on of hands. I then administered the Holy Communion, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Batchelder and Denison.

I have also this day received Hiram W. Beers, a minister of the Methodist denomination, as a candidate for orders in this Church.

I have thus presented to you the record of my acts and labors, in accordance with canonical requirement. It will be perceived that I have visited all the organized parishes, excepting those at Danville and Fort Des Moines, and the one recently formed in Oskaloosa, all of which I hope to visit before the next Convention. I have confirmed, in this Diocese, fifty-seven persons. The present number of parishes in the Diocese is thirteen, while there are three missionary stations where no organizations as yet exist. We have twelve clergymen canonically resident here, besides the Bishop, with favorable openings for as many more, had we the means for sustaining them. The Providence of God presents before us a noble and most promising field. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have indeed a goodly heritage. Let us pray for an increase of faithful laborers, and do all in our power to extend the Church that we love, and the blessed Gospel with which that Church is so fully and inseparably identified. The Protestant Episcopal Church, with its Evangelical Liturgy and conservative Polity, is preëminently adapted to the wants of the West; and let us determine, by God's help, that this generation shall not pass away without seeing it well established at every prominent point in this extended Diocese. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Let us put on the whole armor of God, and go in and possess it in the name of Him who is the Captain of our salvation.

In this great work the Clergy must have the hearty coöperation of the Laity, and there must be a brotherly sympathy among themselves. I would suggest stated gatherings or convocations of the Clergy in the various parishes, for mutual counsel and encouragement, and for stirring up the people to love and good works. Such meetings have long been customary in some of our dioceses, and

great good has resulted from them to the cause of Christ and his Church. These meetings might be held semi-annually at least, and be so appointed as to secure the attendance of a considerable portion of the Clergy. I commend this subject to your consideration.

I would suggest to the Parochial Clergy the importance of extending their labors, occasionally, to places in their vicinity, which may present promising openings for our Church, or where the sound of the Gospel is seldom heard. In this way much good may be done to the souls of men, and the interests of the Church be essentially promoted.

It will be proper for me to state to the Convention that the work of application for aid in which I have been engaged at the East has thus far rendered it impracticable for me to take up my residence in the Diocese. It is my purpose, however, to remove my family during the ensuing Autumn, and to become in all respects identified with the Clergy and people among whom I am to labor, and with the Great West, whose best interests will henceforth be near to my heart. My recent visitation has most thoroughly convinced me that the organization of the Diocese was imperatively demanded by the wants and prospects of the Church ; and while I unfeignedly regret that your choice of a Diocesan did not fall upon one better fitted for the high and holy office and for this particular field, I can heartily assure you that all my energies shall be given to the work to which I have been called, and that my greatest encouragement, in the midst of my arduous labors and cares, will be the consciousness that I have the sympathy and prayers and willing coöperation of those whose servant I am for Jesus' sake.